

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000G

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NODIS

DEPT PASS ASST SEC SCHAUFLE AND TO AMEMBASSIES LIBREVILLE AND
LUSAKA

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, AO, CG, US, OAU

SUBJ: ANGOLA: PRE-OAU CONSULTATIONS

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BULA CALLED ME IN MORNING JANUARY 6
TO DISCUSS OAU TACTICS. HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM YAOUNDE
WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU (WHO DEBARKED EN ROUTE AT HIS
COUNTRY RESIDENCE) AND IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE TONIGHT FOR
BANGUI WHERE MOBUTU, AMIN, AND BOKASSA ARE TO MEET AGAIN.
BULA WILL PROCEED DIRECTLY TO ADDIS AND MOBUTU WILL FOLLOW
ON JANUARY 9.

2. I BROUGHT BULA UP TO DATE ON ASST SEC SCHAUFLE'S RECENT
TALKS IN ABIDJAN AND DAKAR, NOTING THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS
REMAINED FIRM. I SAID WE CONTINUED TO BE CONCERNED, HOWEVER,
THAT SOME OF KEY AFRICAN LEADERS LIKE AHIDJO MSKHONBO, AND
HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY MIGHT NOT PERSONALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE
SUMMIT. I NOTED THAT SENGHOR WAS ENCOURAGING THEM TO
ATTEND. BULA SAID HE WAS NOT SURE ABOUT AHIDJO'S
INTENTIONS, ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVED MOBUTU HAD PRESSED
THIS POINT DURING PRIVATE TALKS IN YAOUNDE. BONGO WAS
HESITANT BECAUSE HE HAD RECEIVED INDICATIONS THAT
ALGERIAN-BASED TERRORISTS MIGHT TRY TO MENACE HIM IN
ADDIS. BULA UNDERSTOOD THAT BONGO INTENDED TO CONTACT
OUR AMBASSADOR IN GABON ABOUT POSSIBLE SECURITY PROTECTION.

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AS FOR HOUPHOUET, BULA OBSERVED WE WAS GETTING OLD AND HAD

A "FEAR OF FLYING". EVEN WITHOUT THESE LEADERS, BULA BELIEVED MOBUTU, SENGHOR, AND KAUNDA WOULD FORM A STRONG NUCLEUS AROUND WHICH OTHER COULD RALLY. HE ADDED THAT EYADEMA OF TOGO HAD ASSURED THE GOZ HE WOULD ALSO ATTEND.

2. TURNING TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MEETING, BULA EXPRESSED SOME ANNOYANCE THAT KAUNDA HAD GONE AHEAD AND PREPARED AN "AGENDA" OF HIS OWN WITHOUT FULLY CONSULTING WITH MOBUTU AND OTHERS. HE AGREED THAT KAUNDA'S FORMULATION CONTAINED SOME INTERESTING AND USEFUL IDEAS, BUT HE THOUGHT IT WAS UNWISE TO PROPOSE CONDEMNATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION AS A SEPARATE POINT. HE SAID ZAIRE (PRESUMABLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH BOKASSA, BONGO AND PERHAPS AMIN) WOULD TAKE ITS OWN PROPOSALS TO ADDIS AND TRY TO WORK OUT AN AGREED POSITION PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE SUMMIT MEETING. BULA DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF JUST WHAT ZAIRE'S POSITION WOULD ENCOMPASS, MENTIONING ONLY THAT IT WOULD COVER "THE MAJOR POINTS, INCLUDING CEASE-FIRE, WITHDRAWAL AND INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION". I EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ANY MAJOR DIFFERENCES COULD BE IRONED OUT BEFORE THE MEETING WITH A MINIMUM OF PUBLIC DISAGREEMENT.

3. BULA SAID HE ANTICIPATED THAT MPLA SUPPORTERS WOULD TAKE A HARD LINE AT THE MEETINGS AND THAT ALGERIA AND ZAIRE WOULD BE THE MAIN PROTAGONISTS. HE CRITICIZED ALGERIA FOR CONTINUING TO PLAY A PARTICULARLY HARMFUL ROLE IN CONNIVANCE WITH THE SOVIETS. LIBYA, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD RECOGNIZED THE MPLA -- DESPITE FIRM ASSURANCES PREVIOUSLY GIVEN ZAIRE THAT IT WOULD NOT -- SHORTLY AFTER BOUMEDIENE HAD GONE TO LIBYA TO PUSH THE MPLA CAUSE.

4. BEFORE LEAVING, BULA POINTED TO THE TWO BOOKS LYING SIDE BY SIDE ON HIS COFFEE TABLE: BARCHETTI'S "CIA" AND BARRON'S "KGB". HE SAID HE HAD READ THEM BOTH, AND WHEN CHARGES OF CIA SKULLDUGGERY IN ANGOLA ARE RAISED IN ADDIS, HE WILL HOLD THEM BOTH UP AS PROOF THAT CIA HAS NOTHING ON THE KGB.

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